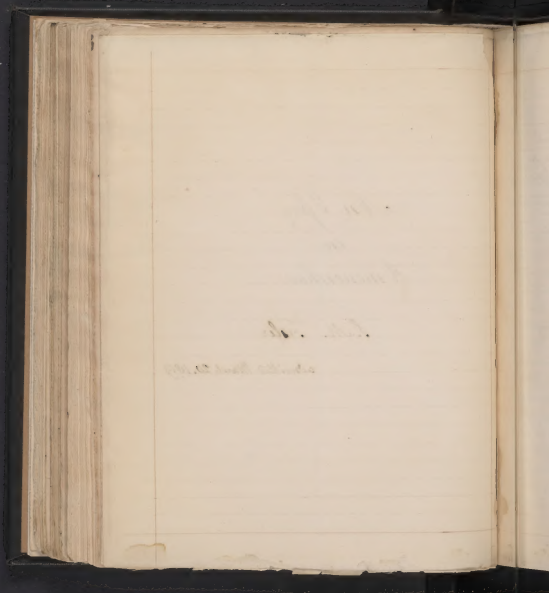


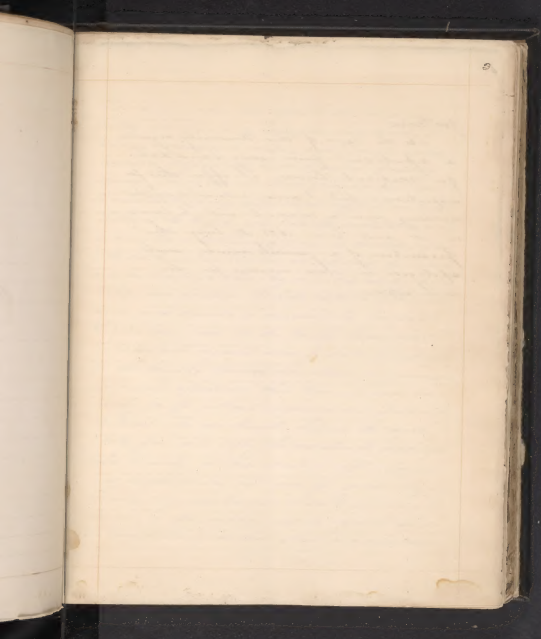
James

An Essay
on
Amenorrhoea

L. M. Fidler

admitted March 20. 1819





Gentlemen

As the laws of this University require
a reputation from every candidate
for medical honors, I offer this for
inspection but I must acknowledge that
nothing new or original will be found
in it and hope that its being the
production of a juvenile mind, will
apologise in some measure for its
imperfections

Dear Sir
I have the
pleasure to
acknowledge
the receipt of
your letter of
the 10th inst.
and in reply
to inform you
that the
same has been
forwarded to
the proper
authorities
for their
consideration
and I am
very sorry
that I cannot
give you a
more certain
answer at
present

That secretion from the vessels of the uterus of a healthy female, which takes place every month, is termed, catamenia or menses, and is part the regular recurrence of which, the health of women essentially depends. The period at which young women begin to menstruate, is very different in different countries. Between the Tropics, girls begin to menstruate as early as nine, ten, or twelve years of age, in the colder regions of the north, not until they are upwards of seventeen and in temperate climates, as in this country, between thirteen and fourteen. The first visitation of the menses, in most females is announced by frequent headaches, pain in the back, loins, and hypogastric region, swelling and distention of the breasts, feverish symptoms, and various hysterical affections; these however, most commonly go off without requiring any particular treatment. In our climate, between the ages of forty five and fifty, the menstrual discharge ceases suddenly, in others it returns after longer and longer periods, and goes off, gradually. The quantity and kind, at each menstrual period, is also influenced by climate and the constitution, so that what is a cold coun-

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7
try would be deemed excessive, in a hot climate
may be no more than is natural. In our
country the usual quantity is from four to
six ounces. During this evacuation women
ought to be as quiet as practicable.

They should be, particularly at this time
extremely cleanly. The statement by choice
of what he supposed the Lord said, +
"women should not touch any thing
after this issue for six or seven days,
was designed to ensure greater attention
to cleanliness."

These exhortatory remarks, are merely to be
considered as preliminary to observations
on the morbid suspension of this natural
evacuation which will be the subject of
this dissertation.

Menorrhoea is a malady of frequent occur-
rence, and sometimes baffles the skill of
our most eminent practitioners. By this
term we are to understand an absence
of the menses. The interruption of the men-
strual flux, is to be considered as of two
kinds; the one being, when the menses do
not begin to flow at that period of life

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at which they usually appear, and the other being that, when, after they have repeatedly taken place, for some time they do, from other causes than pregnancy or lactation, cease to return, at their usual periods. The former of these is named the retention; the latter the suppression of the menses. I shall not give in this essay any history of the different hypotheses of the proximate cause of the menses, suffice it to say, that most authors, speak of menstruation as if it were a real hemorrhage, whereas the fact is known, to be otherwise. It is now well ascertained, that the menses are the product of a secretion, as was proven by Dr Hunter, when, the red globules and serum of the blood, are separated from the fibrina, the former exerts the latter retained. If the first species of amenorrhoea, my observations will be limited. I intend to confine myself to suppression, and give in as concise a view of the practice suitable to the restoration of this secretion, as the subject will admit. The causes of retention are a want of energy in the system, or in the uterine vessels, or a malformation of the

[illegible]

[illegible]

in excess of needed to his ample resources.

[illegible]

powerful stimulant cannot be deemed so
contraindicated in any case where a fever
is present but when this case occurs in
children the action is an important remedy.
Rhubarb Tincture is also useful to be
administered in doses of ten or fifteen
minims but it soon becomes and is an
opposite to some of the above remedies.

Antiseptic is useful to which there is
a rapid and exhausted stage of the same.
and even is less useful except with caution,
then even a very little gradually increased.
Phosphorus, in minute doses has been used
in this disease, and no doubt will be
found a valuable remedy in the
malignant form. However caution is necessary.
The specific Antiseptic is also useful to be
adapted to these cases with due attention.
To fulfil the same intention. There is
an indispensable one, so useful by the
nature of the action. which causes the disease
the most efficacious in the administration
of them also Peruvian Bark should be
given. It changes it into a solid ex-
haustion together with an emperic.

det. Guaiacum officinale. Dr. Lewis became
 disappointed from frequently failing with the
 usual emmenagogue, he tried the Tincture
 of Guaiacum in the dose of a tea spoon full
 and speaks of it in the highest terms.

Great correction, this will frequently suc-
 ceed when others fail. I have used it several
 times and in every instance with evidently
 advantage, the dose is fifteen or twenty
 grains in powder, or it may be exhibited
 in solution.

About the time when the menses are expected
 to appear, it is frequently of advantage to
 apply stimulents to the region of the uterus.

These are the principal remedies that are
 resorted to in cases of amenorrhoea, many
 more might be added of minor consequence
 but which I deem unnecessary to enumerate.
 I provide next to the second division of
 Amenorrhoea, (suppression) or when the disease
 is accompanied with a febrile condition of
 the system. Here the pulse is action, face
 flushed, pains in the back and head,
 together with a sensation of fullness of the
 body. Here the lancet is by all means

to be employed, it obviates the danger of
 excessive discharges of blood, and also upon
 the inflammatory action, as auxiliary cath-
 artics are to be used of these the H. Salivary
 Nigra has been long employed, Dr. Cullen
 does not think much of it, though of late
 it has gained much credit - it is to be
 given about the time the menses are expected
 at the same time we must employ the
 semicarpium: Electricity is frequently found
 to be of great utility - administering a trial
 does not to be omitted as a cathartic
 its power is increased by the addition
 of Calomel, antimonial, and the saline
 draught are also to be employed.
 I cannot conclude this dissertation, without
 expressing my sincere thanks to the Medical
 Professors of this University, for the useful
 instruction which I have received from
 their lectures, and the many marks of
 friendship, politeness and attention
 I have experienced, during the
 several courses, I have attended
 from all of them, which has
 not failed to excite in me, the

